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UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN EL SALVADOR

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to the Security Council in response to paragraph 6 of resolution 693 (1991) of 20 May 1991, in which the Council, having established the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) as an integrated peace-keeping operation with the initial mandate of verifying compliance by the parties with the San José Agreement, 1/ requested the Secretary-General to keep the Council fully informed of the implementation of the resolution. It is also based on the similar request contained in paragraph 7 of resolution 729 (1992) of 14 January 1992, by which the Council decided to enlarge the mandate of ONUSAL to include the verification and monitoring of the implementation of all the agreements that were to be signed by the parties in Mexico City on 16 January 1992 and extended that mandate until 31 October 1992.

2. In implementation of resolution 729 (1992), ONUSAL proceeded to take the necessary measures in order to carry out the new tasks assigned to the Mission. Priority was given to establishing the Military Division, which was entrusted with verifying the cessation of the armed confrontation and was placed under the command of Brigadier-General Victor Suanzes Pardo (Spain), who previously had been chief of the United Nations Observer Group for Central America (ONUCA). During the informal cease-fire (16 to 31 January 1992), the Military Division received its first contingents, which came both from ONUCA and directly from a number of contributing countries. The Military Division deployed its personnel at all the verification points on 31 January and one day later, as agreed, began its verification activities. Under its supervision, the first stage of the separation of forces was completed without any major incident. To date, the Military Division has 368 of the 373 authorized observers.

3. At the beginning of February, the Police Division was established under the command of Colonel Pierre Gastelu (France), as acting chief. This Division will have the responsibility, within the framework of the agreement on the establishment of the national civil police, of facilitating the transition in the field of public security until the new police corps becomes

fully operational by the middle of 1994. The deployment of the Division, which will coincide with that of the national police, has already begun. To date, the Division has 147 of the 631 authorized observers. It is expected that 120 more will arrive by the first week of March.

4. In the meantime, the Human Rights Division, which, to date, is staffed with 51 civilian professionals and 14 police observers assigned by the Police Division (which are included in the total of 147 referred to in the previous paragraph), has continued its task of verifying compliance by the parties with the Agreement on Human Rights. 1/ The report of its Director, which covers the period from 1 November to 31 December 1991, while including some references to events that occurred in January 1992, is the subject of a report that is being published separately.

5. The long and complex negotiation process begun on 4 April 1991 under the auspices of the Secretary-General, culminated in the signing on 16 January 1992 in Mexico City of the Peace Agreement between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN). 3/ The success achieved in this process put an end to 12 years of cruel and bloody conflict and opened up, with the cessation of the armed confrontation on 1 February 1992, the path towards national reconciliation and the establishment of just and lasting peace. At a time like this, a change in political thinking is essential in order to consolidate the process of national reconciliation. In general, the leaders of the main political forces have demonstrated their desire to speed up this change. Owing to this, the main leaders of FMLN returned to El Salvador under conditions of security guaranteed by the Government. In the same context, the first stage of the separation of forces was completed without incident. There have also been other developments which are of fundamental importance, such as the establishment of the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace and the designation of two of its commissions: the special commission to deal with the agrarian problem and the commission on the National Civil Police. Furthermore, the Legislative Assembly has adopted the National Reconciliation Act, which provides for a broad amnesty, with exceptions, however, concerning cases which will be brought to the attention of the Commission on the Truth.

6. I had the pleasure of participating in the signing of the Peace Agreement in Mexico City on 16 January 1992 and of travelling immediately afterwards to El Salvador. Through my visit I sought to underscore the importance for the international community of the decision by the Salvadorians to leave behind an era of violence and embark upon the path of peace. It is obvious that the signing of the Peace Agreement is due to the determination of President Alfredo Cristiani and the leadership of FMLN to achieve a negotiated solution to the conflict. I should not fail to mention that it was the personal participation of my predecessor that ensured, in the final hours of his mandate, the success of the negotiations. Similarly, I should express once again my appreciation to the Governments of Colombia, Mexico, Spain and Venezuela, as well as others, for the support provided in order to achieve peace. On behalf of the international community, I congratulate the parties and extend to the Salvadorian people my best wishes for a future of peace and stability.

7. I shall report to the Security Council, at regular intervals, on the further implementation of ONUSAL's mandate.

Notes

1/ S/21541, annex.

2/ S/23580, annex.

3/ S/23501, annex.